

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 047.0057	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/936464	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/02128		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE March 10, 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED March 12, 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION TUFTING-MACHINE					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Jonathan W. Clarke and Warren J. Meade					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information.					
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.					
2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.					
3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.					
4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31)					
5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))					
a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).					
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.					
c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).					
6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))					
a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto					
b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)					
7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))					
a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau)					
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.					
c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.					
d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.					
8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))					
9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))					
10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).					
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:					
11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.					
12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.					
13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment					
14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment					
15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification					
16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter					
17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825					
18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).					
19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).					
20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:					

518 Reg'd PCT/PTO 12 SEP 2001

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/936464 <small>See 37 CFR 1.53</small>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/02128		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 047.0057	
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21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USL ONLY <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$ 860.00</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> </table>		\$ 860.00			
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Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> </table>		\$			
\$									
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE						
Total claims	8 - 20 =		x \$18.00	\$					
Independent claims	1 - 3 =		x \$80.00	\$					
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ \$270.00	\$ 270.00				
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 1130.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> </table>		\$			
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Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> </table>		\$			
\$									
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$					
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> </table>		\$			
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TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 1130.00					
				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">Amount to be refunded:</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">charged:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table>		Amount to be refunded:	\$	charged:	\$
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charged:	\$								

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ **1130.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
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d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card
 information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR
 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

PURDUE LAW OFFICES
 2735 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd., Suite B-2
 Toledo, OH 43615-1844
 Phone: 419/531-0599

David C. Purdue
 SIGNATURE

David C. Purdue
 NAME

31,412
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

Rec'd PGT/PTO 14 JAN 2002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
Jonathan W. Clarke et al.)

Serial No. 09/936,464)
Filed:)

For: TUFTING-MACHINE)

Attorney Docket: 047.0057

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the subject applications as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4 through 7 and enter the following new claims 8 through 25:

8. (New) A method for operating a tufting machine comprising at least one double-sliding needlebar, loopers or hooks to pick up yarn delivered through needles supported on the at least one double-sliding needle-bar, knives to cut loops of yarn formed by the loopers or hooks, and driving means, said method being characterized in that the movement of the at least one double-sliding needlebar, the movement of the loopers or the hooks, or the movement of the knives is non-simple harmonic motion and, further characterized in that the at least one double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand at top dead center so that the needles do not tag the back-stitches.
9. (New) The method claimed in claim 8, further characterized in that the double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand at the pick-up point, so that the pick-up of the yarn by the loops or hooks is assisted.
10. (New) The method claimed in claim 8 or 9, further characterized in that the at least one double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand above the backing to extend the time available for feeding of the primary backing fabric.
11. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, 2, 8 or 9, further characterized in that the loopers are

held extended to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

12. (New) The method claimed in claim 3, further characterized in that the loopers are held extended to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

13. (New) The method claimed in claim 10, further characterized in that the loopers are held extended to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

14. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, 2, 8 or 9, further characterized in that the hooks are held extended to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

15. (New) The method claimed in claim 3, further characterized in that the hooks are held extended to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

16. (New) The method claimed in claim 10, further characterized in that the hooks are held extended to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

17. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, 2, 8 or 9, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

18. (New) The method claimed in claim 3, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

19. (New) The method claimed in claim 10, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

20. (New) The method claimed in claim 11, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

21. (New) The method claimed in claim 12, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to

cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

22. (New) The method claimed in claim 13, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

23. (New) The method claimed in claim 14, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

24. (New) The method claimed in claim 15, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

25. (New) The method claimed in claim 16, further characterized in that the knives are advanced to cut the loops at a point where the loops always have the same length.

REMARKS

It is noted that claims 4 through 7 were improper multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, these claims are canceled and new claims 8 through 25 are presented for consideration.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



David C. Purdue, Registration No. 31,412

PURDUE LAW OFFICES
Suite B-2
2735 North Holland-Sylvania Rd.
Toledo, OH 43615
Phone: (419) 531-0599
Facsimile: (419) 531-0362

PCT/EP00/02128

CLAIMS

- 5 1. Method for running a tufting machine having at least one needlebar,
loopers and/or hooks to pick up yarn delivered through the needles of the needlebar,
knives to cut the yarn loops
and driving means,
characterized in that
- 10 the needle action and/or the looper action and/or the hook action and/or the knife ac-
tion is/are a non-simple harmonic motion.
2. Method for running a tufting machine according to claim 1, characterized in that
the needlebar(s) are slowed or halted when the needles stand at the pick-up point to
15 assist the looper or the hooks to pick up the yarn from the needles.
3. Method for running a tufting machine according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in
that the needlebar(s) are slowed or halted when the needles stand above the backing
to extend the time available for feeding of the primary backing fabric.
- 20 4. Method for running a tufting machine according to one of the preceding claims,
using a double-sliding needlebar, characterized in that the needlebar(s) are slowed or
halted when the needles stand in the top dead center to avoid the needles tagging the
back-stitches.
- 25 5. Method for running a tufting machine according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the loopers are held extended to hold the loops until later in the
tufting cycle.

PTO/PCT Rec'd 12 SEP 2001

PCT/EP00/02128

TUFTING-MACHINE

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a tufting machine having at least one needlebar, loopers to pick up yarn delivered through the needles of the needlebar(s), and driving means.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

10 The action of a needlebar in a tufting machine is controlled by a main drive. Usually the drive is direct coupled and, although antivibration decoupled drive systems have evolved out of recent research to develop high speed tufters, to the best of the applicants' knowledge all needlebars follow a simple harmonic motion, oscillating between top-dead-center (TDC) and bottom-dead-center (BDC) on a regular sinusoidal path.

15

The pick-up of yarn off the needle, due to a looper or hook is a critical part of a tufting action which is best achieved slightly after the needle has passed BDC. Halting or slowing the needle at this point would assist the looper respectively hook yarn pick-up.

20 In the case of double-sliding needlebar tufters, excess top stroke is required to enable the lateral needlebar shifts to take place and avoid backstitch "tagging" as the needle moves down toward BDC. This can result in loose and uneven backstitches. Similarly, excess bottom stroke is also required to enable clean pick-up of the yarn from both the front and back needlebars. This can cause problems with evenness of the pile surface

25 and so results in a product with lower quality.

Adjustment of the top and bottom needlebar stroke influences the surface and the back-stitch of a tufted carpet. The means of adjustment of current needlebar strokes

The action of a looper, a hook or a knife in a tufting machine is controlled by a main drive. The coupling between a looper bar, a hook bar and a knife bar supporting a plurality of loopers, hooks or knives in a tufting machine and the main drive may be direct or through other mechanical systems to reduce inertia and vibration but, to the best of the applicants' knowledge, the loopers, the hooks and the knives follow a simple harmonic motion on a regular sinusoidal path..

The most common looper action follows an arc whereby the loopers are "rocked" out (or oscillated) to a pick-up point and back to a position to clear needles of the tufting machine. Patents for a linear motion looper action US Patent No. 5645001 and 4759199 (assignee Tuftco) have been found. With both arcuate and linear motion the timing of the looper action is critical for good tufting. Furthermore the way in which the looper picks the yarn off the needle, holds it while the needle withdraws and casts off the loop have significant effect on a carpet surface produced in a tufting machine. Same thing is true and valid for the motion of the hook action and the motion of the knife action.

10 Looper, hook and knife motion timing and set-up are relatively frequently adjusted parameters with different carpet qualities requiring different settings for these parameters.

The means of adjustment of the looper, hook and knife action for timing and pick-up are generally very crude, in some cases involving releasing mounting clamps and knocking the looper, hook and knife assembly into another position with a hammer.

An object of the invention is to overcome the identified disadvantages, provide an alternative choice and improve the action and performance of the needlebars, hooks, knives and loopers of a tufting machine.

20

Further objects of the invention will become apparent from the following descriptions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a broadest aspect of the invention there is provided a tufting machine in which the needle action and/or the action of the loopers, hooks and knives is a non-simple harmonic motion, that is a non-sinusoidal motion

25

The shown looper motions are examples and can be substituted by motions for the hooks and the knives.

In Figure 1 the needle oscillates between top dead center (TDC) and bottom dead center (BDC) with a SHM. The looper oscillates between fully extended and fully retracted with a SHM.

Using an n-SHM needlebar action would enable the needle to be slowed, or halted, at the pick-up point to assist the looper to pick up the yarn from the needle.

10

An n-SHM needlebar action could also be used to reduce the amount of time that the needle is in the backing (as a percentage of the needle stroke time) which would lead to reduced stress on the tufting machine and reduced distortion of the carpet primary backing.

15

Although in theory it is possible to vary the distance between rows of tufts (i.e. stitch rate), in practice there is a practical limit on the extent of variation for any given top stroke setting of the needlebar, i.e. limited by the time that the needles are out of the backing. Using an n-SHM needlebar action, the needles could be slowed, or halted, above the backing to extend the time available for increased distance between rows of tufts.

20

In the case of intermittent primary backing feeding, an n-SHM needlebar action would allow more time for the backing advance to take place, i.e. when the needle was not in the carpet backing.

25

In the case of double sliding needlebar tufting machines an n-SHM needlebar action which slowed, or halted, the needle at TDC could be used to ensure that the needles

would not "tag" the backstitches without excess top stroke which would, in turn, result in tighter, more even backstitches. Furthermore, the use of an n-SHM needlebar action which slowed, or halted, the needle at the pick-up could be used to ensure good yarn pick-up without excess bottom stroke which would, in turn, result in a more even carpet surface.

A computer controlled needlebar drive system would also enable the action to be electronically fine-tuned to a high level of precision. Different set ups could be achieved automatically for a different product as is currently done for other tufting parameters, such as yarn feed, pile height, primary backing feed, etc, as in US 4867080.

Patterning effects may also be possible through variation of the needlebar stroke between rows of the same product.

It is expected that an n-SHM needlebar action would also lead to reduced machine vibration, which in turn, could enable higher speed operation. Further advantages could also be accrued through the use of shorter needlebar strokes and intermittent needlebar action.

A non-simple-harmonic-motion looper action enables more precise control of the timing for the looper extension to pick-up the yarn from the needle at the optimum position on the needle. Furthermore, the looper can remain "extended" to hold the loop until later in a tufting cycle, i.e. until the backing has advanced on to trap the backstitch under the presser foot to reduce the tendency for yarn to be "robbed-back" as the next tuft is inserted.

In more sophisticated versions, the looper can "track" the tuft at the same speed as the backing advance to maintain the loop height, shape, etc.

Particular examples of the invention have been described and it is envisaged that im-
25 provements and modifications can take place without departing from the scope thereof.

6. Method for running a tufting machine according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hooks are held extended to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

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7. Method for running a tufting machine according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the knives are moved forward to cut the loops at a point where they always have the same length.

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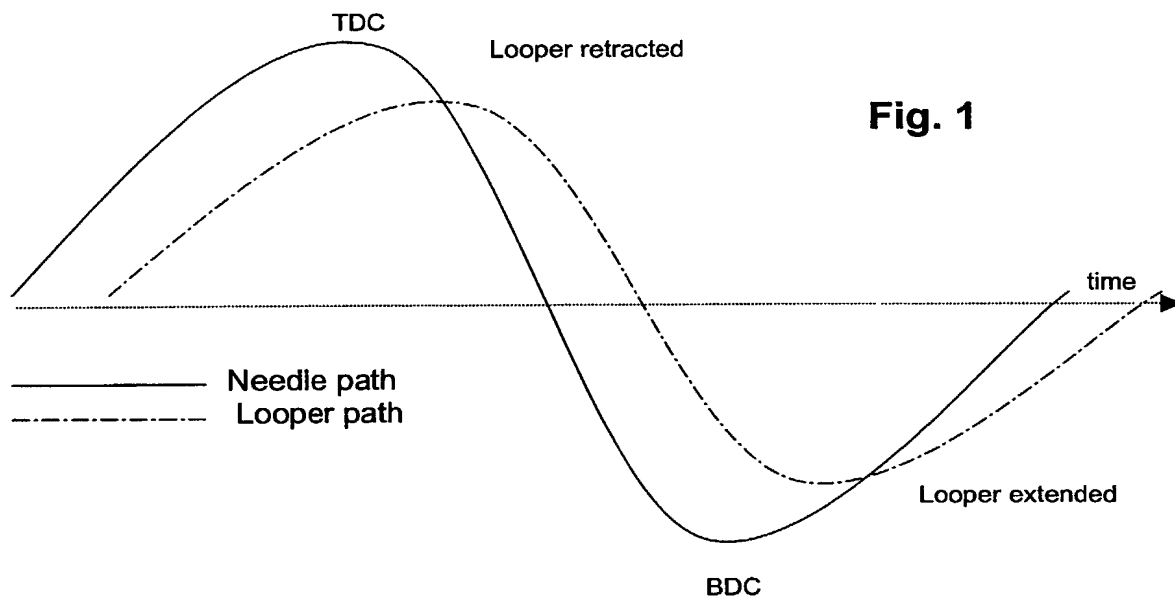
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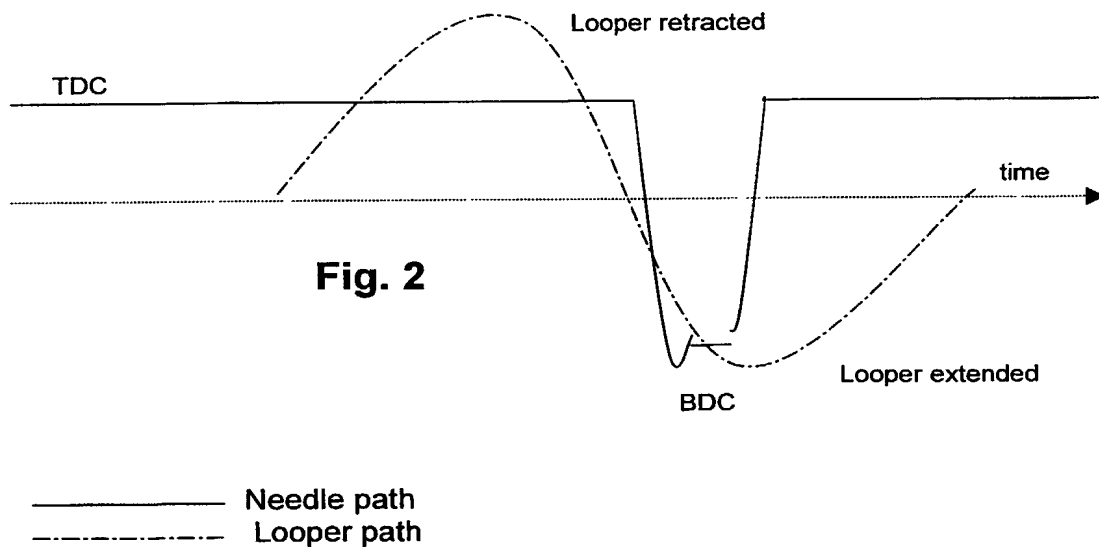
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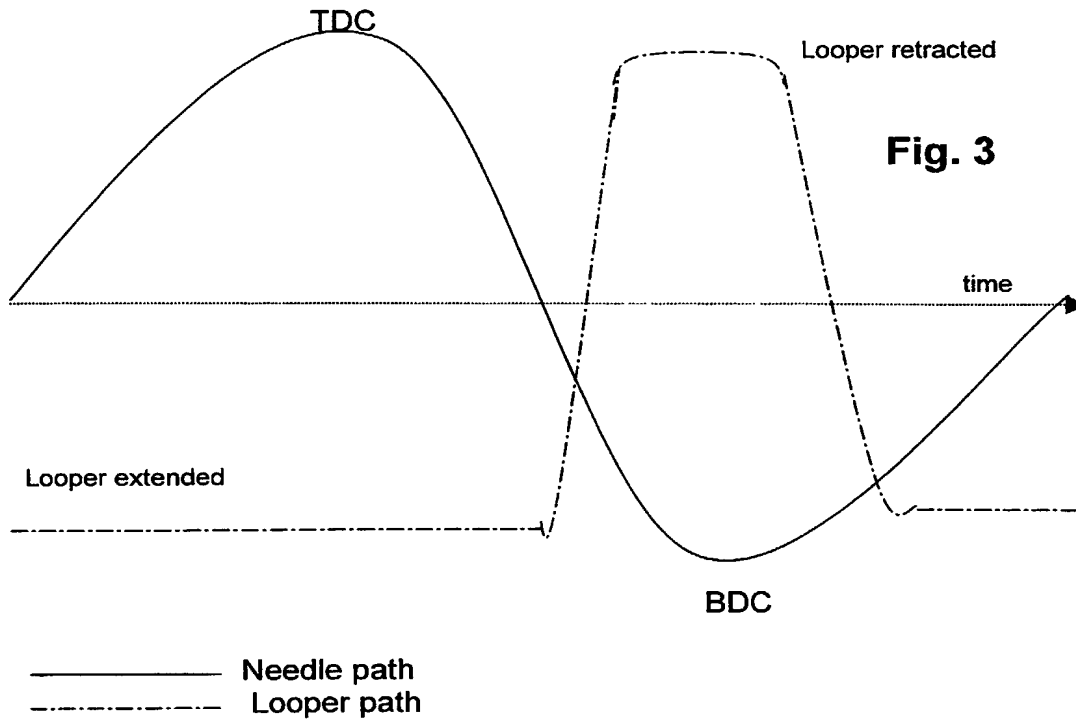
(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : D05C 15/20, 15/22, 15/24	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/55412 (43) International Publication Date: 21 September 2000 (21.09.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/02128 (22) International Filing Date: 10 March 2000 (10.03.00) (30) Priority Data: 334619 12 March 1999 (12.03.99) NZ 334620 12 March 1999 (12.03.99) NZ (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): GROZ-BECKERT KG [DE/DE]; Parkweg 1, D-72458 Albstadt (DE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CLARKE, Jonathan, William [NZ/NZ]; Kings Road, RD Leeston, Christchurch (NZ). MEADE, Warren, John [NZ/NZ]; Willowlea, Fiddlers Road, R.D.2, Motukarara, Christchurch (NZ). (74) Agent: KÖNIG, Werner, E.; König & Kollegen, Habsburgerallee 23-25, D-52064 Aachen (DE).		(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: TUFTING-MACHINE (57) Abstract <p>The invention concerns a tufting machine having at least one needlebar, loopers, hooks to pick up yarn delivered through the needles of the needlebar, knives to cut yarn loops and driving means, with the needle action and/or the looper action and/or the hook action, and/or the knife action being a non-simple harmonic motion. In said machine the needles, the hooks, the knives and the loopers have separate drive systems. So the motion of the needles, the hooks, the knives and the loopers can be such that first of all the pickup of the yarn or the cutting of the yarn loop can be improved. When the drive system is computer controlled more accurate machine set up can be achieved. Moreover different set ups can be achieved automatically for different products. Patterning effects are also possible.</p>		

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9. Jun. 2002 11:13

PA KOENIG

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PTO/SB/01 (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0032

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PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**



Declaration
Submitted
with Initial
Filing

OR



Declaration
Submitted after Initial
Filing (surcharge
(37 CFR 1.16 (e))
required)

Attorney Docket Number

First Named Inventor

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

09/936,464

Filing Date

09/12/2001

Art Unit

Examiner Name

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TUFTING-MACHINE

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which



is attached hereto

OR



was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

03/10/2000

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

PCT/EP00/02128

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

05/19/2001

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
334619	NZ	03/12/1999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
334620	NZ	03/12/1999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

[Page 1 of 2]

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9. Jun. 2002 11:14

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NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR : ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name Jonathan William
(first and middle (if any))Family Name CLARKE
or SurnameInventor's
Signature W. ClarkeDate 13/6/02Christchurch

Residence: City

State

NZ

Country

NZ

Citizenship

Mailing Address 57 McBeath Ave
Christchurch

Christchurch

City

State

ZIP

NZ

Country

NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name Warren John
(first and middle (if any))Family Name MEADE
or SurnameInventor's
Signature W. MeadeDate 17/6/2002Christchurch

Residence: City

State

NZ

Country

NZ

Citizenship

Mailing Address RD5, Springston
Christchurch

Christchurch

City

State

ZIP

NZ

Country

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.